

# the condition of education 2007



## INDICATOR 23

### Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Elementary/Secondary Persistence and Progress

## Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

*Status dropout rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics ages 16–24 have each generally declined since 1972, but in 2005, status dropout rates for Whites remained lower than rates for Hispanics and Blacks.*

High school dropouts are more likely than high school completers to be unemployed and earn less when they are employed (U.S. Department of Commerce 2006, tables 261 and 686). In addition, among adults age 25 or older, regardless of income, dropouts reported worse health than high school completers (Pleis and Lethbridge-Çejku 2006, table 21).

The *status dropout rate* represents the percentage of an age group that is not enrolled in school and has not earned a high school credential (i.e., diploma or equivalent, such as a General Educational Development [GED] certificate). For this indicator, status dropout rates are reported for 16- through 24-year-olds. The status dropout rate for this age group declined from 15 percent in 1972 to 9 percent in 2005 (see supplemental table 23-1). A decline was also seen between 2000 and 2005, the more recent years of this time span (11 vs. 9 percent).

Status dropout rates and changes in these rates over time differ by race/ethnicity. The status dropout rates for Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics each generally declined between 1972 and 2005. However, for each year between 1972 and 2005,

the status dropout rate was lowest for Whites and highest for Hispanics. Although the gaps between the rates of Blacks and Whites and Hispanics and Whites have decreased, the patterns have not been consistent. The Black-White gap narrowed during the 1980s, with no measurable change during the 1970s or between 1990 and 2005. In contrast, the Hispanic-White gap narrowed between 1990 and 2005, with no measurable change in the gap during the 1970s and 1980s.

In 2005, Hispanics who were born outside of the United States<sup>1</sup> represented 7 percent of the 16- through 24-year-old population and 27 percent of all status dropouts in this age group (see supplemental table 23-2). Higher dropout rates among these Hispanic immigrants partially account for the persistently high dropout rates for all Hispanic young adults. Among Hispanic 16- through 24-year-olds who were born outside the United States, the status dropout rate was 36 percent in 2005—more than double the rates for Hispanics in this age group who were born in the United States (14 and 12 percent, respectively). Nevertheless, Hispanics born in the United States were more likely to be status dropouts than their non-Hispanic counterparts.

<sup>1</sup> The United States refers to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* discussed in this indicator is one of a number of rates reporting on high school dropout and completion behavior in the United States. See *supplemental note 7* for more information about the rate reported here. Total includes other race/ethnicity categories not separately shown. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Some estimates are revised from previous publications.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Notes 1, 2, 7

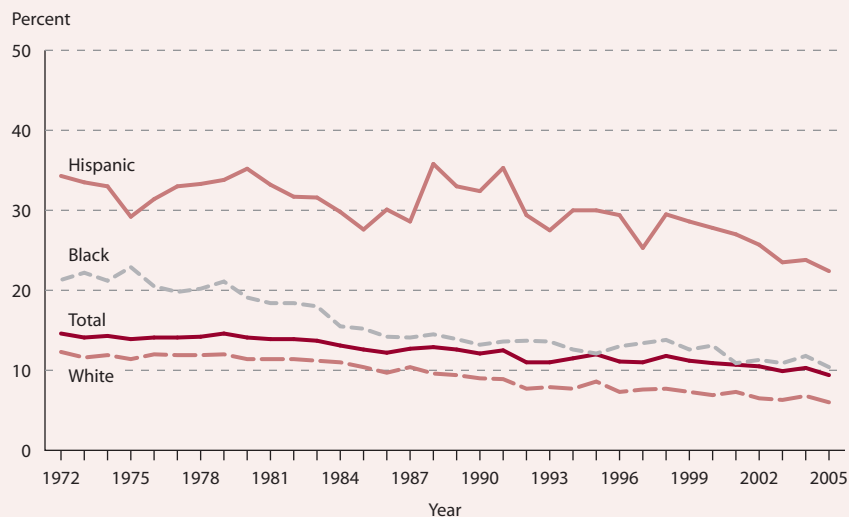
Supplemental Tables 23-1, 23-2

U.S. Department of Commerce 2006

Pleis and Lethbridge-Çejku 2006



**STATUS DROPOUTS: Dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2005**



## Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

**Table 23-1. Status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2005**

Year	Total <sup>1</sup>	Race/ethnicity <sup>2</sup>		
		White	Black	Hispanic
1972	14.6	12.3	21.3	34.3
1973	14.1	11.6	22.2	33.5
1974	14.3	11.9	21.2	33.0
1975	13.9	11.4	22.9	29.2
1976	14.1	12.0	20.5	31.4
1977	14.1	11.9	19.8	33.0
1978	14.2	11.9	20.2	33.3
1979	14.6	12.0	21.1	33.8
1980	14.1	11.4	19.1	35.2
1981	13.9	11.4	18.4	33.2
1982	13.9	11.4	18.4	31.7
1983	13.7	11.2	18.0	31.6
1984	13.1	11.0	15.5	29.8
1985	12.6	10.4	15.2	27.6
1986	12.2	9.7	14.2	30.1
1987	12.7	10.4	14.1	28.6
1988	12.9	9.6	14.5	35.8
1989	12.6	9.4	13.9	33.0
1990	12.1	9.0	13.2	32.4
1991	12.5	8.9	13.6	35.3
1992	11.0	7.7	13.7	29.4
1993	11.0	7.9	13.6	27.5
1994	11.5	7.7	12.6	30.0
1995	12.0	8.6	12.1	30.0
1996	11.1	7.3	13.0	29.4
1997	11.0	7.6	13.4	25.3
1998	11.8	7.7	13.8	29.5
1999	11.2	7.3	12.6	28.6
2000	10.9	6.9	13.1	27.8
2001	10.7	7.3	10.9	27.0
2002	10.5	6.5	11.3	25.7
2003	9.9	6.3	10.9	23.5
2004	10.3	6.8	11.8	23.8
2005	9.4	6.0	10.4	22.4

<sup>1</sup> Total includes other race/ethnicity categories not separately shown.

<sup>2</sup> Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Beginning in 2003, respondents were able to identify as being more than one race. From 2003 onwards, the Black and White categories include individuals who considered themselves to be of only one race.

NOTE: The *status dropout rate* is the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who lack a high school credential. A high school credential includes a high school diploma or equivalent credential such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Estimates beginning in 1987 reflect new editing procedures for cases with missing data on school enrollment items. Estimates beginning in 1992 reflect new wording of the educational attainment item. Estimates beginning in 1994 reflect changes due to newly instituted computer-assisted interviewing. See *supplemental note 7* for more information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2005.

## Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

**Table 23-2. Status dropout rates and number and percentage distribution of dropouts ages 16–24, by selected characteristics: October 2005**

Characteristic	Status dropout rate (percent)	Number of status dropouts (in thousands)	Population (in thousands)	Percent of all dropouts	Percent of population
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>36,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Sex					
Male	10.8	2,009	18,547	58.1	50.5
Female	8.0	1,449	18,214	41.9	49.5
Race/ethnicity <sup>1</sup>					
White	6.0	1,358	22,806	39.3	62.0
Black	10.4	534	5,111	15.4	13.9
Hispanic	22.4	1,429	6,364	41.3	17.3
Asian	2.7	39	1,454	1.1	4.0
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	79	‡	0.2
American Indian	14.0	37	265	1.1	0.7
More than one race	8.2	56	683	1.6	1.9
Age					
16	2.5	116	4,593	3.3	12.5
17	4.4	188	4,313	5.4	11.7
18	8.1	305	3,777	8.8	10.3
19	9.4	356	3,782	10.3	10.3
20–24	12.3	2,493	20,295	72.1	55.2
Immigration status					
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia					
Hispanic	36.5	942	2,582	27.2	7.0
Non-Hispanic	4.7	94	2,008	2.7	5.5
First generation <sup>2</sup>					
Hispanic	13.9	297	2,146	8.6	5.8
Non-Hispanic	3.1	66	2,167	1.9	5.9
Second generation or more <sup>3</sup>					
Hispanic	11.6	189	1,636	5.5	4.5
Non-Hispanic	7.1	1,869	26,222	54.0	71.3
Region					
Northeast	6.9	461	6,650	13.3	18.1
Midwest	7.2	624	8,658	18.1	23.6
South	11.5	1,491	12,985	43.1	35.3
West	10.4	881	8,468	25.5	23.0

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

<sup>1</sup> All racial/ethnic categories except more than one race are of persons who considered themselves as being of one race, with the exception of the Hispanic category, which consists of Hispanics of all races and racial combinations. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

<sup>2</sup> First generation describes an individual born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia with at least one parent born outside the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

<sup>3</sup> Second generation or more describes an individual born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia whose parents were both born inside the 50 states or the District of Columbia.

NOTE: The status dropout rate indicates the percentage of 16- through 24-year-olds who are not enrolled in high school and who lack a high school credential relative to all 16- through 24-year-olds. High school credential includes a high school diploma or equivalent credential such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2005.

## Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

**Table S23-1. Standard errors for the status dropout rates of 16- through 24-year-olds, by race/ethnicity: October 1972–2005**

Year	Total	Race/ethnicity		
		White	Black	Hispanic
1972	0.28	0.29	1.07	2.22
1973	0.27	0.28	1.06	2.24
1974	0.27	0.28	1.05	2.08
1975	0.27	0.27	1.06	2.02
1976	0.26	0.28	1.01	2.01
1977	0.27	0.28	1.00	2.02
1978	0.27	0.28	1.00	2.00
1979	0.27	0.28	1.01	1.98
1980	0.26	0.27	0.97	1.89
1981	0.26	0.27	0.93	1.80
1982	0.27	0.29	0.98	1.93
1983	0.27	0.29	0.97	1.93
1984	0.27	0.29	0.92	1.91
1985	0.27	0.29	0.92	1.93
1986	0.27	0.28	0.90	1.88
1987	0.28	0.30	0.91	1.84
1988	0.30	0.32	1.00	2.30
1989	0.31	0.32	0.98	2.19
1990	0.29	0.30	0.94	1.91
1991	0.30	0.31	0.95	1.93
1992	0.28	0.29	0.95	1.86
1993	0.28	0.29	0.94	1.79
1994	0.26	0.27	0.75	1.16
1995	0.27	0.28	0.74	1.15
1996	0.27	0.26	0.75	1.13
1997	0.27	0.28	0.80	1.11
1998	0.27	0.28	0.81	1.12
1999	0.26	0.27	0.77	1.11
2000	0.26	0.26	0.78	1.08
2001	0.25	0.26	0.71	1.06
2002	0.24	0.24	0.70	0.93
2003	0.23	0.24	0.69	0.90
2004	0.23	0.24	0.70	0.89
2005	0.22	0.23	0.66	0.87

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2005.

## Status Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity

**Table S23-2. Standard errors for the status dropout rates and number and percentage distribution of dropouts ages 16–24, by selected characteristics: October 2005**

Characteristic	Status dropout rate (percent)	Number of status dropouts (in thousands)	Population (in thousands)	Percent of all dropouts	Percent of population
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>301.9</b>	<b>†</b>	<b>†</b>
Sex					
Male	0.33	61.8	210.0	1.22	0.38
Female	0.29	53.3	221.6	1.22	0.38
Race/ethnicity					
White	0.23	52.2	248.3	1.21	0.37
Black	0.66	33.9	116.8	0.95	0.28
Hispanic	0.87	55.1	120.1	1.39	0.33
Asian	0.66	9.6	63.8	0.28	0.16
Pacific Islander	†	†	15.8	†	0.04
American Indian/Alaska Native	3.31	8.8	28.8	0.27	0.07
More than one race	1.63	10.5	45.7	0.31	0.10
Age					
16	0.34	15.5	117.3	0.45	0.25
17	0.45	19.6	113.8	0.56	0.25
18	0.65	24.4	106.7	0.70	0.23
19	0.69	26.2	106.8	0.75	0.23
20–24	0.34	68.3	236.0	1.11	0.38
Immigration status					
Born outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia					
Hispanic	1.57	40.5	87.6	1.25	0.22
Non-Hispanic	0.69	13.8	78.1	0.40	0.17
First generation					
Hispanic	1.24	26.5	80.9	0.79	0.20
Non-Hispanic	0.54	11.7	81.1	0.34	0.18
Second generation or more					
Hispanic	1.31	21.4	71.8	0.64	0.18
Non-Hispanic	0.23	60.8	263.5	1.24	0.34
Region					
Northeast	0.43	28.7	140.3	0.80	0.28
Midwest	0.39	33.9	159.3	0.92	0.31
South	0.44	56.6	192.7	1.31	0.39
West	0.52	43.8	157.6	1.16	0.34

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 2005.